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SPY ONCE REGAINED ACCESS TO SECRETS

Navy Gave Pollard Clearance After Threat of Grievance

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WASHINGTON, June 16 — The Navy restored a security clearance to Jonathan Jay Pollard, an analyst who later admitted spying for Israel, after he threatened to file a grievance against his superiors, a Reagan Administration official said today.

The official said the clearance had been revoked in 1981 because Mr. Pollard was having emotional problems and was restored the same year.

Mr. Pollard, a civilian counterterrorism analyst, was later granted access to to an even higher classification of documents, the official said. Navy investigators are trying to learn why he was given such a high security clearance after the 1981 incident and to what extent the Navy was swayed by Mr. Pollard's threat, said the official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

Strains Have Developed

Mr. Pollard confessed earlier this month that he sold American military secrets to Israel for tens of thousands of dollars since at least 1984. The case has strained American-Israeli relations and led to interagency battles between the Justice Department and State Department.

After a meeting today with American officials here, the Israeli Justice Minister, Yitzhak Modai, pledged that his Government would cooperate in the espionage inquiry and urged that the investigation be accelerated.

Speaking with reporters after seeing Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Mr. Modai said there "should be no

doubt" that Israel wanted to see American laws upheld and pledged cooperation "to the fullest degree."

He was critical of statements from American officials who have said privately that there may be more Israeli spying in the United States. "If there is more to the case, somebody has to produce the 'more,'" he said. "Otherwise it's just talk."

In a related development, law-enforcement officials said they knew of no plans for Federal prosecutors to return to Israel to interview purported members of the spy ring that oversaw Mr. Pollard's activities.

One official said prosecutors felt that evidence developed in the United States might be sufficient to permit indictment of a prominent Israeli Air Force officer, Brig. Gen. Aviem Sella, who has been formally accused as a conspirator in the espionage operation.

Also today, a Justice Department official confirmed that Rafael Eitan, an Israeli who has been described in Government papers as the leader of the spy ring, traveled in 1968 to a nuclear processing plant in Pennsylvania from which more than 200 pounds of highly enriched uranium disappeared.

In recent years, intelligence sources have said they believed that Israel diverted the uranium for use in nuclear weapons. The Federal Bureau of Investigation closed its investigation of the case without making charges.

Navy Hired Pollard in '79

Court documents filed by prosecutors earlier this month say Mr. Pollard was hired by the Navy in 1979 and served as an intelligence specialist.

According to the Administration official, he lost his security clearance two years later at least in part because of complaints from a fellow employee who believed Mr. Pollard was suffering from psychiatric problems.

The nature of Mr. Pollard's emotional problems could not be determined, although the official said he had "heard the word 'bizarre'" applied to the analyst's actions. Another source close to the case said Mr. Pollard had seen a psychiatrist for an undetermined period of time.

People who knew Mr. Pollard have described him as volatile and garrulous; a college classmate recalled that he frequently boasted of colorful inter-

national exploits, including service as an agent of Israeli intelligence.

The suspension of his clearance led Mr. Pollard to threaten to file a grievance against Navy supervisors, the official said.

After discussions among Navy supervisors, the official went on, the security clearance was restored, and Mr. Pollard was later transferred to a highly sensitive post in a newly formed anti-terrorism unit of the Naval Intelligence Service.

Grievance complaints filed by Government employees can lead to a long investigation. And the official said that a desire to avoid the investigation "was certainly a consideration" in restoring the clearance, although he cautioned that Mr. Pollard's threat was "only one factor" in that decision.

The Administration official said the Navy was continuing its review of security procedures in the wake of the Pollard case, especially after recent disclosures that Mr. Pollard was able to remove stacks of highly classified documents from a Navy facility in Suitland, Md.

In his job, Mr. Pollard analyzed intelligence pertaining to terrorist threats in the 48 contiguous states and the Caribbean. Prosecutors said that he had security clearance to obtain documents classified "special compartmentalized," a classification higher than top secret.

The documents filed by prosecutors said Mr. Pollard was told in 1984 that Mr. Eitan was the leader of the espionage operation. Mr. Eitan, a mysterious figure, was once the chief of operations for Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency.

Case of Missing Uranium

The discovery that Mr. Eitan may have visited the nuclear plant in Apollo, Pa., years earlier lends additional mystery to the missing uranium, although a law-enforcement source noted that many overseas visitors have probably gone to the plant over time.

According to this official, Mr. Eitan was apparently identified to employees of the plant as a chemist with the Israeli Defense Ministry.

United Press International reported today that it had obtained Government reports showing that on his 1968 visit, Mr. Eitan met with Zalman A. Shapiro, founder of a firm that oversaw the nuclear processing plant.

Mr. Shapiro has repeatedly maintained that the uranium was lost naturally in the course of reprocessing.